APPLES VICTORIA NEWS

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for the dedicated Apple II user

1990 EXECUTIVE

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NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 3, 1990
TIME: Doors open at 7 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30 **sharp**!
PLACE: **Richmond Elementary School**
(Main entrance, turn right, upstairs, north wing)
2780 Richmond Road.

Parking is available on site or on the North side of Townley St. Please note that we must be out by 10 p.m.

(Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month from September through to June.)

MEETING FORMAT:

- Group Business
- Questions & Answers/Open Discussion
- Main Theme: Video Graphics
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

We are sorry that Allen McCracken was unable to give his demo on video graphics last month as planned, but hopefully he will be able to give it at this meeting.

NOTES FROM THE APRIL 5 MEETING

Robin opened the meeting at 7:30 by announcing a change in the scheduled speaker. Allen McCracken has promised to give his demo on video graphics at a future meeting, but work obligations prevented him from attending the April meeting. In his place, Gary Peterman had agreed to give a demo of **CrossWorks**, which transfers data files between Apple II and MS DOS machines. Our group disk library has added **WARP6**, a public domain communications program recently downloaded from the Advantage BBS. This program lets you use a modem with an Apple IIe or IIgs, but not an Apple IIc. It features an easy to use graphic interface. We also received a diskette from the Apples BC User Group in Vancouver containing their bylaws. In our book library we have added the 5 cassettes recently ordered from NAUG containing AppleWorks tutorials. We'd like to hear your comments once you've listened to any of these cassettes.

CrossWorks Demo

Gary has an Apple IIc at home and works with MS DOS machines on the job. In order to convert and transfer his data files between these two different types of computer he uses the newly upgraded software/cable package CrossWorks 2.0. The program comes with a disk for the Apple II, an MS DOS disk, and a multi-purpose, null modem cable. One end of the cable has both the 9 and 25 pin connectors for the AT and XT models of the MS DOS machines including laptops, and the other end has a daisy chain of all 3 Apple pins. You can therefore hook up almost any Apple II machines to any MS DOS machine. Best of all, the whole package retails for less than $100

HI AND LOIS
TO ENTER THE CASTLE, STEAL THE BRASS RING FROM THE FLYING MONKEY AND TOSS IT INTO THE POOL OF TEARS
SLANG IS BAD ENOUGH, NOW KIDS ARE TALKING IN CODE?
COMPUTER-GAME STRATEGY, DEAR
DIK BROWNE 4-27
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Canadian. Once the two computers are physically linked via the cable, the software handles the copying and converting of the data files. The new version has greatly improved documentation, and accommodates an even wider variety of data file structures. On the Apple it will recognize any AppleWorks file, or any ASCII text file. It cannot transfer PFS files.

On the MS DOS side, it will recognize and convert files created in Lotus 1,2,3, dBASE III+ or IV, First Choice, MS Word, MS Works, Word Perfect etc. The software does an excellent job of converting the text, formulas, formatting codes and field delimiters as long as both the applications that use the data files support the same features. AppleWorks database files do not specify the field lengths, so when converted to a dBASE format (for instance), CrossWorks sets each field wide enough to accommodate the longest entry. Therefore the resulting MS DOS file can often be three times longer than the original AppleWorks database file. Disk capacity can therefore create unexpected limitations when transferring files.

Gary demonstrated transferring an AppleWorks database file from his Apple IIc to a dBASE III+ file on an MS DOS machine. The MS DOS version of CrossWorks does all the converting, so works faster if that machine has a hard drive. The first step is to boot both machines with the CrossWorks software. Both versions of the program have screens that look like AppleWorks menus, so are easy to use. On both machines you then set your parameters: communication method, port being used, hardware setup, etc. (You can use the regular phone lines and a modem to transfer files over longer distances.) On the receiving machine (in this case the MS DOS one), select the option to receive a file. On the source machine (in this case the Apple IIc), select the file to transfer and select the send option. In this case the file is copied first to the MS DOS machine (via the cable at 19,200 baud), and is then converted to the desired file format (in this case dBASE). The file used was only about 9K, and the transfer was over before we knew it! It sure beats retyping the data on the other machine! A short discussion period followed the demo.

If anyone is interested in purchasing a BPI Accounting program, a Gemini Star printer, or an expanded 80 column card with 64K (?), contact Bill at 592-1900.

* * * * *

A Brief Summary of "**THE ULTRAMACROS PRIMER: HOW TO USE TIMEOUT ULTRAMACROS**" by Mark Munz.

Even though you may have followed all the articles by Mark Munz in 'Appleworks Forum" (and this book is based on those articles) access to The Ultramacros Primer while using TimeOut Ultramacros would be of the utmost assistance in thoroughly understanding the far-reaching capabilities of a macro, or sets of macros, and will lead the reader through every stage of learning about macros.

I am not sure if you are meant to read Chapter 1, go out and buy TimeOut Ultramacros, come back to Chapter 2 to see how to install Ultramacros, and then proceed from there. But if you do, remember to go back to Chapter 1 again - it contains valuable background information and three tables to which I will refer later. On page 5, Chapter 1, note the use of the brackets < and >. Do not press the bracket keys when trying these first few macro examples. For example under the heading 'Built-in Macros, <sa-A> means hold down the solid apple key and press A. Make a special note of this when you come to page 27 <oa-X> and page 29 <sa-T>. You do not type the brackets until Chapter 4. Note also at this early stage that you work within a Word Processor file AT ALL TIMES.

In Figures 1.1 - 1.3, the "domain" of each macro is not given, so take a quick look at page 37. All the macros given in these tables have a "domain" in which they work. For example, in Fig.1.2, sa-A would have "<all>" as its domain, because you use it as soon as the Main Menu comes up, and sa-J would have "<awp>" as its domain because it would be used in a Word Processor document. This is fully covered in Chapter 4. I have one suggestion to add - to photocopy these three tables, then print out a copy of the Default Macros (load Ultramacros, get the file Macros Ultra 3.0., or 2.0, and print it). From this printout, fill in the modules (domains) in which the listed macros are used. These two

references will be an invaluable guide.

The terms Timeout, Modules, Ultramacros, and Applications are in the beginning quite confusing. Chapter 2 needs to be thoroughly understood. I would recommend that users of 5.25 disks try the Directory and Sub-Directory system. (I used this system on all my 5.25 disks before getting a 3.5 inch disk drive.) If your disk is called /Timeout then your subdirectory is /Timeout/TO. Use a subdirectory for reference files from Ultramacros (/Timeout/Ultramacros) and so on.

Creating keyboard macros (Chapter 3) is fun at first but there are bigger and better things to come... I would skip the paragraph (p.29) on the Macro Table being full - that is way into the future, unless you do what I did in the beginning. In some mysterious fashion I saved, or moved, three sets of default macros to the actual "Default Set" that comes with Ultramacros (see Macro Compiler) and kept getting the message "Table is full" when I hadn't added anything to the Default Macros anyway. I finally scrolled on down (feet of it) and discovered what I had done. The solution: move what was extraneous to the clipboard and then forget it!

Chapter 4 really starts you on the macro road. This Chapter is excellently presented, as indeed they all are. Figure 4.2 is the start of a whole book of detailed examples of macros, clearly presented and fully explained, many of them read to be used in your own system. Chapter 5 is excellently presented. I would recommend studying and practicing Chapters 4 and 5 together. By that time you should be able to write some special macros of your own.

I was going to skip Chapter 6, but unintentionally read the first paragraph on P.56. With that admonition, I had to proceed. Everything you need to know about Task Files is there and I would think that in many a work environment the use of Task Files could save hours of repetitive typing. I found it very easy to launch the different Task Files I set up, using Macro Options. But don't forget to launch your Default set again to get back to normal.

The next Chapter (7) leads you gently into macro programming. Study the examples given and follow every space or keystroke EXACTLY. It is the standard form which you will use throughout all programming. With the completion of Chapter 7 you should have all the techniques necessary to go on to whichever Chapter deals more specifically with your requirements. For example, I found the chapter on Subroutines (Chapter 12) very useful, because I have used the system of including one macro within another. The Chapter on executing repetitive tasks obviously meets special needs (Chapter 11).

Chapter 8 is a bonus, containing macros you can use yourself. Work your way through Fig.8.1.A, Fig.8.1.B, then Fig.8.2 - and add it to your own set of macros! (I never really knew how to say $1 until I read this chapter.) Figure 8.4 is a duplicate of Fig. 8.2, but uses different methods. I prefer the less complex Fig.8.2. Typing this macro makes it is much clearer than just looking at it! BUT note that the table as given was first published in March 1989. I had to use the new "<n=key>" syntax with Appleworks V.3. (see page 83, "The <Key> Command.) This applies to Fig.8.4 as well, and no doubt other macros have to be adjusted to new updates.

Macros that Read the Screen (Chapter 9) are more complicated except for the new "Find" command which comes with Ultramacros 3.0, and seems to me to be directed more specifically to users who own many Timeout products. Chapters 10 (Variables) and 13 (If-Then-Else Logic) are not for me, but nevertheless I think I understood most of what it is about.

Despite the rather-frightening-to-a-beginner heading of Chapter 14, "More Power Programming" I found in it much useful information set out in a very easily understood manner. I would say this Chapter is your reward for working painstakingly through the Primer! It is easy to read and brings a different dimension to creating and using macros. An excellent example of macro simplicity is on page 172, Fig.14.9., (ASCII values are set out in Appendix A.) These simple macros represent true "Power Programming" and clearly demonstrate how you can design macros to do all kinds of jobs for you.

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Richard Catinus

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Chapter 15 is for owners of Version 3 or later and is self-explanatory. I have already updated some of my macros with the new commands. Note a small error on page 186, the subroutine macro referred to in Chapter 13 is <sa-K>. There may be some difficulty with macro examples for those people who have updated Ultramacros.

As for "Debugging", Chapter 16 , I don't think it will help me when the Compiler keeps pointing an arrow at the spot where I have made a mistake and I can't see it (generally a bracket left off, or, if you change something, the exclamation mark gets deleted) but we are told in conclusion to this chapter that it is all a "mysterious blend of art and science".

The Primer will give endless hours of challenge, fun and usefulness. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Inez L. Weston.

MAIL BAG

Apple User Group Connection

The March and April packages of User Group Connection materials arrived recently. We'll touch on some of the items of interest to Apple // users in this article and have the materials "on display" at our next meeting.

Several copies of **QuickConnect**, the newsletter for Apple User Groups, were sent to us. This magazine devotes several articles on how to plan interesting programs and how user clubs can successfully operate and keep their members informed of Apple activities.

The premier issue of **develop: The Apple Technical Journal** is now available. This is designed for User Group members who like to program on Apple // or Macintosh. A CD-ROM disc is part of the magazine. It is the electronic version of **develop** and has the necessary codes for each of the articles in the issue.

Also, if you are into programming and/or developing software then take a look at the articles and product information in the **Spring 1990 APDAlogs** catalog.

We also received the latest **Apple // Tech Notes** which will be added to our files in the library binders.

We hope to have a chance to show you some excerpts from the **April 1990 User Group Video** at this month's meeting. One selection will be a segment of GTV, utilizing National Geographic material and CD-Rom technology for educational purposes. Also, the new Apple // High-Speed SCSI Card is demonstrated on the video. The rest of the video is mostly about Macintosh and features the high speed (40 megahertz !) and expensive Macintosh //fx.

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AppleWords (LEAUG, Murphysboro, Il)

The March issue of the Little Egypt Apple Users Group has a review on THE **GEOS** system (Berkley Softworks). "The GEOS package is a remarkable program that virtually puts a Macintosh in your Apple //c ,//e, //c+, //gs". Some advantages (graphic interface, pull-down menus, multiple fonts....) and disadvantages (disk-resident, what files that can be read and launched) are listed. The review also covered the GEOS Write and GEOS paint applications. The author, who was going to demonstrate GEOS to his group, stated "In my opinion, the entire GEOS package will give Claris and AppleWorks a run for their money." Would this be a good program item for our club? Any offers?

AAAUG (Atlanta, GA)

The April issue of the Atlanta Area Apple Users Group features an article on Logo, a language developed in the mid-1960's by a team at MIT. In this interesting and informative presentation, Patrick Edmondson takes you through the basics of Logo that a child can easily learn.

"If you have school age kids, I believe the best way you can use your home computer to aid their mental growth is probably Logo." He ends with "The magic of Logo is that it harnesses your spirit of play and inquiry to make learning and discovery fun. So play on...." Anyone interested in more about Logo?

Apples B.C. News

JumpStart 2.6, a shareware program, acts as a replacement for the GSOS system finder. The review lists the features and also compliments Mainframe Software on the service supplied.

There is also a story and short descriptions on some other GS shareware products in the Apples B.C. PD Library and BBS. Added to this is a complete guide to the club's Bulletin Board System.

The educational program,**Cross Country USA** receives an extensive review. The reviewer states "This delightful program has been carefully designed to captivate the interest of growing minds."

The review on **Publish It!** is positive with the conclusion of "This program is well worth the money. I rate it excellent!" (Editor's Note: So do I! I use it for this newsletter.)

WANTED

A used composite monitor. Call Bill at 383-1153.

THE QUICKIE

- by Bill Weldon

I'm sure that many of you have seen the ad in A+ inCider (April '90 issue) for the **Quickie** hand-held optical scanner made by Vitesse. Well, I saw another mail order firm selling it for $100 off the list price and just had to get one. So I did!

The first ad showed a hand scanning a colour picture in a magazine and there was the image on the monitor in colour. Well, I haven't been able to duplicate that feat. The scanner seems to work fairly well on black and white line drawings and takes some practice to get an even scan. Without much practice I was able to produce a section of the cartoon on page 2 as shown in Fig.1. It does not work well with colour photographs.

The Quickie offers a choice of four resolution settings: 100, 200, 300, and 400 dots per inch, set by a 4-position switch on the side of the scanner. There is a thumbwheel (rheostat) on the scanner for making the image darker or lighter, and a 4-position Letter/Photo switch sets different grey patterns. The maximum scanning width is 4-1/8" or half a normal page width; the length appears to be unlimited except perhaps by memory available. It is also possible to set Quickie up as a New Desk Accessory.

On booting the software, a GS-type menu bar comes up with Apple, File & Edit headings. To begin you pull down the file menu to New Scan. The menu which comes up allows you to set options before scanning. The colour options are: Black & White and Grey (reduced 50%). The dots per inch setting is displayed and there is a slider bar to set the length of scan. Other options are:

- Show image during scan (only possible with short scans)
- Audio Feedback (a clicking sound during scanning)
- 10 Seconds TimeOut (turns scan light off after 10 seconds if scan hasn't started after clicking on Scan. This does not affect scan but is to save the LEDs)
- Allow Blending (the manual does not explain this)

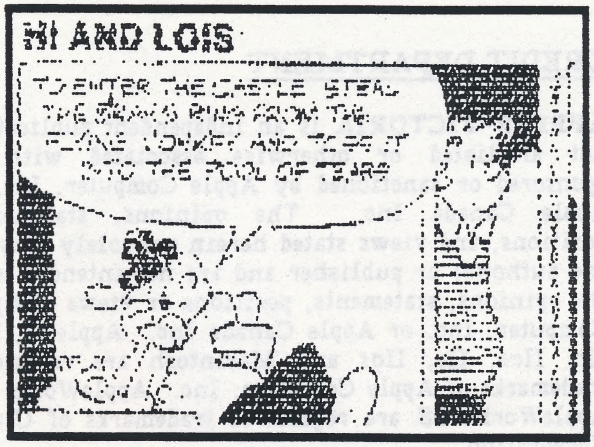
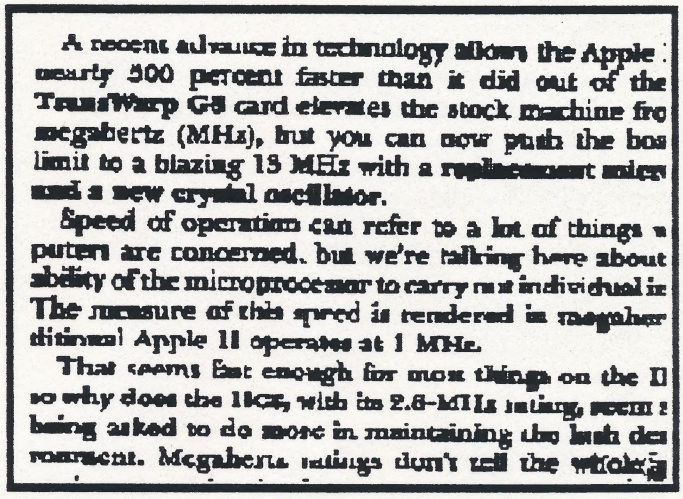


Figure 1

- Set Slot (sets slot in which card is located)
- Scan

To scan, you set the scanner at the top of the area to be covered, click the mouse on Scan, press the Start button on the handle, and slowly roll the scanner towards the bottom. When the scan is completed (as



A recent advance in technology allows the Apple
nearly 500 percent faster than it did out of the
TransWarp GS card elevates the stock machine fro
megahertz (MHz), but you can now push the bos
limit to a blazing 15 MHz with a replacement micro
and a new crystal oscillator.

Speed of operation can refer to a lot of things w
puters are concerned, but we're talking here about
ability of the microprocessor to carry out individual in
The measure of this speed is rendered in megaher
ditional Apple II operates at 1 MHz.

That seems fast enough for most things on the II
so why does the IIGS, with its 2.8-MHz rating, seem
being asked to do more in maintaining the lush des
vironment. Megahertz ratings don't tell the whole

Figure 2.

indicated by the cessation of clicking), you can crop the picture and save it in any of 4 formats: Screen (33K), Paint, Apple Preferred (79K) or Finder Icon. Fig.2 is a rather poor example of text.

The pictures can be imported directly into Publish It3 but, since they are larger than life, they must be reduced considerably.

Hopefully, with a little more practice, I will be able to do a better job than these examples show. The Quickie would be much more useful to me if objects scanned were reproduced closer to their original sizes.

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